

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 4, Folder 4

May 11, 1951 -  
August 3, 1951

0957

11 May 1951

Dear George:

Your letter of 3 May came as somewhat of a surprise to me, as it was my understanding that, because of my allowance, I could retain or recall to active duty any naval aviator that I wished, who was on the retired list. The fact that officers of the 30 June 1951 retirement list are mostly to be retained on active duty means nothing to me whatsoever, excepting that possibly I should have had one of them.

It is hard for Admiral Conolly or myself to recommend some one for this assignment, because we know nothing about them. We therefore requested you to have one of your assistants make out a list of the naval aviators of consequence on the retired list, and also asked that you send us their biographies. Perhaps you did not receive this letter, or if you did it was misplaced due to the press of other business.

Would it be possible for you to send me the names of the officers presently retired, and those about to be retired, and will you also send me the biographies of these officers so that Admiral Conolly and myself may look at them? If you cannot do that, would it be possible to send me the names, and I will write to the proper section in BuPers for the biographies?

If we cannot get a competent retired officer, I'm going to ask the President of the War College to change the unfilled billet to an active duty aviator, preferably a senior commander. I should like to have this done right away so that we may endeavor to fill the billet from some graduate of the War College in recent years, or from those about to

*Capt Turner*

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graduate. I should particularly like to obtain here Commander D. C. Richardson, who served on the staff before, who is thoroughly familiar with our work, who did very well here, and who has now completed several years at sea. He knows nothing of this.

You will be interested to know that I am getting very friendly comments from everywhere on Savo Island. It took two years with two and one-half officers to do the analysis, plus a prior year of research with one commander in collecting the necessary references and translations. The Battle for Leyte Gulf has infinitely more ships and planes, and the staff is but fifty percent of what was employed in the previous studies - Coral Sea and Midway.

You will also be interested to know that the film - The Battle of the Coral Sea - is completed, and except for a little minor error, which I hope will be corrected, will be issued to the fleet presently.

I cannot tell you how much the War College is indebted to you for your assistance in creating these movies! You deserve the greatest commendation for your understanding and appreciation of what these War College Analyses and the movies on them are all about, and I want to be the first to tell you so!

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Captain George C. Towner, USN  
(Officer Detail Section),  
Bureau of Naval Personnel,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

17 May 1951

Dear George:

Could you have one of your assistants send me the following information immediately: the date when Admiral R. H. English became Rear Admiral.

In our Midway book, and our Midway film now nearing completion, we have addressed him as "Rear Admiral," as has Captain Morison in his book; and yet the CINCPAC order dated May 27th, 1942, which was but six days before the action, referred to him as "Captain English."

The Battle of Midway film, I think, is excellent. I just reviewed it in New York yesterday, and we are bringing it up to the War College next week for a review by the President and designated members of the Staff.

With warmest personal regards, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Captain George C. Towner, USN  
(Officer Detail Section),  
Bureau of Naval Personnel,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0960

17 May 1951

Dear Mr. Roessle:

This letter is merely to confirm our agreement wherein you will show, in inter-lock form, the Battle of Midway film on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 23rd, at the War College.

I presume that the best time to commence showing this film will be 1:45 p.m., or in naval time, 1345.

Best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.  
Rear Admiral USN (Ret)

Mr. Herman Roessle,  
Audio Productions, Inc.,  
630 Ninth Avenue,  
New York 19, New York.

0961

18 May 1951

Dear Jack:

It was wonderful to see you in New York, and I noted for the first time that you seemed to be quite healthy. In my past observations I thought that the strain of your responsibilities was telling on you, but your European jaunt was very helpful in reducing the tension. Thanks for your thoughtfulness to me; naturally I always appreciate it.

I have taken up the matter of your recall to active duty so that you might be present at our Global Strategy Discussions, beginning at the end of May and continuing until June 8th.

The President of the War College - Admiral Richard Lansing Conolly - was quite pleased at your interest, and has written to Admiral Delaney asking that you be recalled for the period, May 28th to June 8th.

For your information we are to have a Global Strategy Discussion in seminar form, where officers from all over the United States, with a limited number of civilians, are engaged in discussions along Global lines. You should be a fine addition to this discussion period! Don't back down on this!

If you have any trouble on this thing, please advise me immediately, and if we cannot order you up through the Reserves, which we prefer for your sake as you prefer that also, we will then see if we can't get you up here on a civilian basis.

I don't know what Admiral Delaney will do about your case, but perhaps if you get in contact with the Officer-in-Charge of Reserves in the District, the matter will be cleared up immediately. Admiral Conolly's letter to Admiral Delaney left yesterday.

With best regards to yourself and to your wife, and with hopes that you will be up here during the Global Strategy Discussions, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

Mr. John J. Bergen,  
John J. Bergen and Co.,  
40 Wall Street,  
New York, New York.

0962

28 May 1951

Dear Captain Renken:

I am in receipt of a dispatch from the NPC concerning the Midway interlock showing for the Pentagon, 1 June, 1300, Room 3, Section 5B. I will be there for that showing. I expect to leave on the afternoon of May 30th and will remain at the University Club.

When we showed the Coral Sea picture we had the large auditorium and invited a large attendance. As a consequence, many officers were present, including Admirals McCormick, Low, and others. I understand that Room 3 is very small and will house an extremely limited number of persons. There may be a reason for the small room, and I offer no objection. However, this is a very fine movie in my mind, and I should like as many to see it as is advisable.

I am writing to you about this with a hope that you will pass the information on to Commander Gibson, who may have something to do with this.

I wish to make clear that I am not asking for the large moving picture room; I am merely suggesting that possibly it might be well to use it. If you decide not to, that is entirely within your province. I am merely the technical adviser to discuss any discrepancies that anyone might feel are apparent in the film. For your information, this film has already been approved by Admiral Spruance, by Admiral Beary, and by Admiral Conolly.

Hoping to see you when I am in Washington, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Captain Henry A. Renken, USN,  
Room 4C539, Pentagon Building,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

P.S. As a matter of information this film, in the interlock stage, will take approximately three hours. Don't let this concern you as no one in the War College has objected to this length.

0963

29 May 1951

Dear Mary:

Sometime ago we sent you a chart of the command relations incident to the Battle for Leyte Gulf. As I have heard nothing from you concerning our queries, I presume that you are either too busy or have been on one of your numerous tours throughout the world.

I now have some additional questions which I would appreciate your answering. These are:

a. The Air University states that there was at 14th Air Force Headquarters a U.S. Navy Shipping Center through which information such as contacts made by 14th AAF planes was passed to naval commands. Was this a component of NavGroup China?

b. Was there a NavGroup China liaison unit at 20th Bomber Command Headquarters through which Navy communications passed?

c. Would NavGroup China dispatch files contain all information passed between 14th and 20th Air Forces in China and CINCPAC, COMTHIRDFLT, and COMSEVENTHFLT? Would like to get a copy of all dispatches containing contact reports and other pertinent information for October 1944.

I expect to be in Washington near the end of the week. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral M. E. Miles, USN;  
Room 4E470, Pentagon Building,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0964



4 June 1951

Dear Captain Gano:

Chief Quartermaster Merrill O. STOUT, 393 22 31, would like to remain with this office until next spring as per your suggestion to me. I certainly need him as my two additional officers are still missing although one has orders.

Please make necessary arrangements.

I cannot thank you too much for your thoughtfulness in my behalf and in behalf of the War College. Needless to say, I am very grateful.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain R. A. Gano, USN,  
Room 2809A, Bureau of Naval Personnel,  
Navy Department  
Arlington, Virginia.

0965

5 June 1951

Commander A. R. Manning, USN,  
The Bureau of Naval Personnel,  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Manning:

Although I was in BUPERS for part of a day last week and although I started up to see you I never got there as I had to see Admiral DuBose.

For your information, the showing of the film "The Battle of Midway" at the Pentagon went very well indeed. However, the N.P.L. endeavored to get me to drop the sound effects but I refused. So it will not be done until then - final date, 30 June. I am writing to Captain Parrish over at the N.P.L. to ask him to tell his assistants that when they work with me the job must be properly and completely done. No half measures will ever be satisfactory.

Would you mind calling up your Ships' Logs Section to ask them if they won't expedite photographing the ships' logs for the submarines at Leyte Gulf. They have been doing a splendid job for me but suddenly they have slowed down from high speed to a crawl.

I'm sorry that I did not see you. Best to everyone.

Sincerely,

R. W. BATES

0966

5 June 1951

Dear Captain Parrish:

The showing of the film "Battle of Midway" in the Pentagon was highly successful. I know that this is gratifying to you.

However, your Lieut-Comdr whose name I have fortunately forgotten, very nearly upset the apple cart as he endeavored to get me to approve cutting out the sound effects. Had he come to me privately it would not have been so bad. Instead, he started a discussion right after the showing and in the presence of all witnesses including at least three Admirals and in the presence of the company representatives. I flatly told him that the answer was no! We would have the sound effects; that that had all been settled with the Chief of Naval Operations. Please be sure that this is correctly done.

I signed a paper here for Mr. Southgate approving the picture as far as we have gone. I refused to do it until Mr. Southgate assured me that this was only a preliminary signing and that no payments would be made until I had personally approved the final film. I must request that there be no slip up on this as there was a definite slip up in the final showing of the Battle of the Coral Sea in which case I was completely by-passed.

Finally, Audio Productions was entirely unprepared to make any changes in the film had they been necessary. They said the "voice" needed for certain changes recommended was away. This was highly unsatisfactory. I told their manager, Mr. Roessel, that they well knew that the interlock nature of the showing was to make room for possible changes, and that they should have been ready.

Such changes were made in the Coral Sea movie by Film Graphics, and could well have been expected here.

I'm sorry that all of this trouble has occurred but anyone who knows me well knows that I will always insist that the government get a fair product for its money, and will do my level

0967

best to insure that this is done. I have no doubt but that you have a similar attitude.

With best regards and congratulations on what has developed into a splendid movie, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Capt. L.W. Parrish, USN,  
U.S. Naval Photographic Center,  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Anacostia 20, D.C.

0968

6 June 1951

Vice Admiral J.H. Cassady, USN  
Room 4E394, Pentagon Bldg  
Arlington, Va.

Dear Admiral Cassady:

It was nice to see you during my recent short trip to Washington and to note the friendly manner with which you received my requests,

- (a) To permit the President of the Naval War College to retain his picket boat and
- (b) To obtain Commander David C. Richardson, or somebody as good for my Special Projects Staff.

I hope that both of these requests have met with your favor and that I shall presently hear of your approving action. As a reminder, I have until recently always had two naval aviators on my Staff. First I had Captain Fred. C. Dickey and Comdr. David C. Richardson, then Captain W. H. Ashford and Comdr. Richardson, then Comdr. W. D. Innis and Comdr. James O. Cobb. Then, while I was on a trip to California, Comdr. Cobb was transferred suddenly to another section in the War College and although I was promised a replacement, I did not get one.

I then decided that it would be wise to obtain a retired officer rather than an active duty officer. This was approved last year by CNO and BuPers. However, since that time, I have encountered considerable and unexpected difficulty in obtaining a competent retired aviator. Those I have consulted wish to come back to duty as Rear Admirals and to draw flight pay. That, of course, was out and I said so. Now the answer appears to be to obtain a competent Captain or a Commander who is on the active list. Then I will profit by "work done", and the active officer will profit through the improvement of his professional judgment in the study of the numerous command problems which arise in these battle analyses.

0969

Our Global Strategy Discussions are going very well. Asst. Secretary Koehler arrived today.

Many thanks again for your interest. Actually, Admiral McCormick sent me to obtain your opinion.

Very sincerely yours

R. W. BATES

0970

6 June 1951

Dear Captain Renken:

A little problem may arise concerning our translators. There is a plan afoot in Admiral Hartman's office to move Heffernan's Historical outfit to Annapolis. My two translators, Mr. Kawakami and Mrs. Tanaka are presently housed in Admiral Heffernan's office. I have written to Admiral Hartman requesting that he leave one room in Main Navy or in the Pentagon for these translators who very probably do not wish to go to Annapolis as their homes and their source material are in Washington.

Can you help me with this? It is very difficult to obtain translators - these people are excellent - and I simply cannot afford to lose them.

Many thanks for all of your "assists".

As ever,

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Capt. Henry A. Renken, USN,  
Room 4C539, Pentagon Bldg,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D.C.

0971

6 June 1951

RAdm C.C. Hartman, USN,  
Room 4E474, Pentagon Bldg,  
Navy Department  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Hartman:

Thank you very much for your friendly interest in the War College. I told both Admiral McCormick and Admiral Conolly of the efficient and courteous manner with which you handled your assignment and of the lack of pressure. Admiral McCormick said that he had observed the same thing, "that you appeared to take things in your stride". Admiral Conolly confirmed Admiral McCormick's opinion. I hope that you don't mind my telling you this!

Your Commander Slaughter called up today about the \$500.00 the War College requires. I confirmed the \$500.00 and asked the Secretary to call Slaughter and confirm my action. I believe this has been done.

I understand that Heffernan's Historical Section is to be removed to Annapolis. This will "unhouse" my two Japanese translators, Mr. Clarke Kawakami and Mrs. Tanaka, who are presently housed in Admiral Heffernan's offices. May I request that you retain one room in Main Navy or in the Pentagon for these translators? They are very busy; they are hard to get; and I feel sure that for obvious reasons they won't wish to leave Washington. Also their main source of information is the National Archives which are in Washington. Surely, one room in Main Navy or one in the Pentagon should be available. It need not be large - a very small room will do.

Thanks for everything.

As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

0972



11 June 1951

Vice Admiral J. H. Cassady, USN  
Room 4E394, Pentagon Bldg.  
Arlington, Va.

Dear Cassady:

Thanks for your letter of June 6th with the news about David Richardson. I should have liked to get him because he is really good. However, the fact that he is on the Joint Strategic Plans satisfies me as it shows there is a real effort to get good men in the right places.

I now have my eye on Captain Alfred R. Matter, File Number 71362, who was graduated from the Senior Course here in 1947 and then served in the Strategy and Tactics Department of the War College Staff for a year. I believe he would be well qualified for the assignment. I don't know his present whereabouts but as he went to sea from the Staff he is probably back on shore duty now and with perhaps two years of continued shore duty ahead.

Best regards to you. It is always pleasant to see you as you always maintain an equilibrium of temperment.

R. W. BATES

0973

12 June 1951

Dear Captain Collins:

I am sending you herewith the draft of the Allied Command Relations at the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I hope that you will have time to read it and will not hesitate to point out any discrepancies or to recommend expansion of the discussion of some point if you think it advisable. Most of this draft has been read and approved as correct by Admiral Spruance who seems to have been thoroughly familiar with the whole set-up there.

When you have finished with the draft herein forwarded, I hope that you will return it to me. Please do not pass it around as it still belongs to my office and has not been released. When so passed around, even in a limited way here at the Naval War College, I have been confronted with positive and loose statements by officers whose memories had not kept up with the facts. In all cases to date I have been able to produce any documentary support necessary for my statements in the book.

It was nice to see you up here. I sincerely hope that you enjoyed the Global Strategy Discussions and found them profitable. Your presence contributed greatly to the success of our Discussions.

Best regards,

R. W. BATES

Captain Howard L. Collins, USN  
National War College  
Washington, D.C.

0974

14 June 1951

Dear Chick:

I was very interested to note that the War College had received your approval for the additional allotment of \$500 which was requested by letter, and about which we discussed.

I know that you have so many demands that it must be somewhat difficult to decide who should have priority in the expenditure of limited funds. However, I can assure you that your decision to allow the War College the extra \$500 requested was correct and wise. Thank you!

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral C.C. Hartman, USN,  
Room 4E474 Pentagon Building,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0975

14 June 1951

Dear Frog:

We had our graduation exercises yesterday in which the Under Secretary of the Navy took a principal role. It was a very successful affair, and the Under Secretary proved to be a very effective gentleman. His speech was a fine one and well delivered; his conversation at lunch was very interesting indeed. The luncheon was a man's luncheon only, presided over, of course, by Admiral Conolly.

In the afternoon after touring the area, the Secretary left, and if you could have seen him dashing away in the famous picket boat with his red Under Secretary's flag flying, you would have been gratified at your decision to permit the President of the War College to retain that boat for the distinguished guests of the War College who are constantly arriving and returning via the Quonset route. Thank you!

The world situation still seems to be very much in a turmoil. I am happy that you are down there to assist in the solution of the American phase of this unhappy situation.

Best regards. As ever.

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Vice Admiral F. S. Low, USN,  
Room 4E606, Pentagon Building,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0976

15 June 1951

Dear General Trudeau:

In accordance with your wishes, the Chief of Naval Operations has authorized the showing of the movie "The Battle of the Coral Sea" at the Army War College. The Chief of Naval Operations in approving the War College request for permission to send the film to you listed one restriction - "proper security must be observed." For your information this film is CONFIDENTIAL, and it is therefore requested that the CONFIDENTIAL nature be maintained.

When you have finished with this film please return it to the Naval War College.

It was wonderful to see you here during our Global Strategy Discussions. You contributed a great deal to the success of these Discussions, and I have heard nothing but friendly remarks from all sources. I am telling you this because in the Armed Services one gets only a pat on the back, or a kick in the fannies, with the latter predominating. So when an opportunity arrives for a pat on the back I like to be able to deliver it.

Your two old friends from Manila - myself and Mark Hersey - also enjoyed seeing you on the personal level. Next time you are in this area I hope that we may renew again this friendly acquaintance.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,  
Commodore, U.S. Navy.

Brigadier General Arthur G. Trudeau,  
Army War College,  
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

0977

21 June 1951

Dear Mr. Roessle:

You will be interested to know that when the film of the Coral Sea was shown up here during our Global Strategy Discussions, the Deputy Commander of the Army War College was so impressed with this film that he requested immediate authority to show it at the Army War College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He stated that the Army for forty years had been endeavoring to discover some way of showing the command decisions in action, and the battle lessons resulting therefrom, in a manner that made them clear to the observers, and that he had found that answer in our Coral Sea film.

As the Battle of Midway presents, in an even clearer manner these same problems, I want to tell you about it so that you may feel as satisfied as we are at the success of this type of movie and of yours, in particular.

It was my understanding that you expected to complete the Battle of Midway by the end of this month, and that your principal problem was to tie-in the sound effects from the Naval Photographic Laboratory with your completed film. I am anxious to see the completed film with the sound effects before it is sent to Washington. I should appreciate your kindness if you will inform me when this will be done. For the showing I can either go to New York, or you can send your representative up here, as you see fit.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral USN(Ret).

Mr. Herman Roessle,  
Audio Productions, Inc.,  
630 Ninth Avenue,  
New York 19, New York.

0978

25 June 1951

Dear Mr. Roessle:

The enclosure is some observations on the motion picture film "Battle of Midway" which you are completing. These comments were made by two Japanese language officers down in the Navy Department who saw the movie. I'm inclined to agree somewhat with some of these comments, and I will discuss each one of them categorically. This letter will permit you to make any change you consider you can make before the completion date.

ITEM 1: If you can delete the word "To" from the statement "Paramushiro To" it will improve the story.

ITEM 2: The reason the JUNYO is listed as a CVL, while the RYUJO is listed as a CV, is as follows: The JUNYO is a converted merchant ship, whereas the RYUJO, although much smaller, was a real carrier.

It might be better if you could refer to both of them as CVs, although the way it is now is not entirely wrong. I do not know where the table is, but I think it is the "Table of Forces in the Aleutians."

ITEM 3: With reference to item 3 and the B-<sup>17</sup> attacks, it might be preferable to say "no hits were made" rather than "the Japanese reported no hits." This also is not vital, but the change might be for the better.

ITEM 4: With reference to item 4 about the MAIN BODY, I think that they are wrong. I don't believe that we called it the MAIN BODY, and I have no recollection in the write-up of the book of ever referring to it as the MAIN BODY. We refer to it as the MAIN GROUP or MAIN UNIT. Actually, it was either the MAIN UNIT or the MAIN GROUP, and should be so listed throughout the book and the film. The MAIN GROUP and the ALEUTIAN SUPPORT GROUP flowed out of the MAIN FORCE. I honestly cannot understand where they obtained the words MAIN BODY, because the words MAIN BODY were rejected by this office. Could it have been that Mr. Hanousek or Mr. Southgate in drawing the pictures or in writing the script might not have used MAIN BODY? Frankly, I do not recollect ever hearing it.

ITEM 5: The VIREO was definitely an ATO. Why we called her "ATF" I do not know, as that was the term given much later. It would be more correct, if you desired to do so, to delete the "F" from the "ATF", and call her simply an "AT". Although the VIREO was actually AT-144, she was known officially as an ATO.

Please don't get excited about these changes--they do not ~~main~~ <sup>improve</sup> the book if we do not have them done, but they would improve the film, possibly, if made.

Once again, with hopes that your progress is pleasing to yourself, and with best regards to everyone, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral USN (Ret).

Mr. Herman Roessle,  
Audio Productions, Inc.,  
630 Ninth Avenue, New York 19, New York.

Encl. (1)

0980



25 June 1951

Dear Roger:

It was very thoughtful of you to write me this letter of the 22nd of June, and I have already sent word to the movie people to fix it if they can. Several slight changes may be made, but, all in all, I'm afraid the movie will remain about as it is. It is a question of money, and as the movie is two hundred words longer than the money allowed in the first place, I'm not sure that the company will be willing to spend any more to make these few changes. In addition, I've been advised that I cannot have any more money for this film, no matter how excellent it is.

For your information, the change #1--to delete the word "To"--I think can and will be done.

Item 2:-- The change JUNYO and RYUJO may not be done. I'm not particularly concerned about it because, although the RYUJO was a light aircraft carrier, on the other hand the JUNYO was converted from a merchant ship, and it is not improbable that we got this CVL from the merchant ship designation. Perhaps the original designation was CVL for the RYUJO, and CV for the JUNYO, although the Japanese books list both of them as CVs. The RYUJO is listed as CV-3, and the JUNYO as CV-8. I've suggested that they call both of them CVs. I hope this can be done, but it is not vital.

With reference to Item 3, I do not understand why, in writing up this script, we kept saying, as you mentioned, "B-24s reported no hits," because that is not the way it is worded in the book. I have suggested that they modify this in accordance with your recommendation. Don't be disappointed if they do not.

With reference to your Item 4, about the term MAIN BODY, I do not understand it. Nowhere in the book have we referred to the MAIN BODY, and if such a term is used in the movie it must have been obtained because the script writers or the artists went to another source. I have told Audie to call it the MAIN GROUP or MAIN UNIT, but to maintain unity throughout. Very frankly, throughout the book we call it the MAIN UNIT, but for some reason in our Order of Battle at the back of the book, we have called it the MAIN GROUP.

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With reference to your Item 5, you are quite correct about that ATP. Today the VIREO would be called an ATP as she was a fleet tug. At that time she was called AT-144 and was referred to in 1944 as an ATO. I have advised them of this change also.

So much for your letter. I should be very happy to have Mr. Kawakami have his leave with pay. There isn't any doubt about it that he has done a very excellent job for me down there, and I should be highly indignant with myself if I didn't do something to insure that he got this leave. Please make representations accordingly.

I appreciate your speaking to Admiral Heffernan about our satisfaction with his work here. It is, however, disappointing to have him say that he has not received approbation, because we have been writing through him with reference to units of his command, and have repeatedly commended such units for the results accomplished. However, if he would like to have a direct letter, if you will advise me about when he will be shifting his command from Washington to Annapolis, as it is rumored that he may go there, I will prepare a formal letter from the President of the War College to that effect.

I have been endeavoring, through inside sources, to retain the translators for my office in Washington on the ground that they would much rather be in Washington with the Archives nearby, than in Annapolis. If this hits you also, then between Morison and myself we should be able to hold you and Mr. Pattee, Mr. Kawakami, and Mrs. Tanaka in Washington.

Very frankly, I have written on this subject to both Admiral Hartman and Captain Renken. I have heard nothing from either of them, but that is not important provided you are not moved.

With best regards, and appreciations for all your thoughtfulness to my office, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Mr. Roger Pineau,  
Office of Naval Records and History,  
Room 2517, Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0982

26 June 1951

Dear Admiral Bolger:

I received your letter of the 18th of June with some surprise, because the matter you mentioned in your third paragraph is a matter which had already been discussed with both Admirals McCormick and Cassady. In order that you may understand the picture I will discuss the problem here in a limited way.

For years this section has had two aviators and one line officer as assistants, until last year when Admiral Beary suddenly detached my second aviator, while I was in California, and transferred him to another section. When I protested, Admiral Beary said that he would straighten this out when we started Leyte.

I therefore let the matter ride, but upon receiving the designation for doing the Battle for Leyte Gulf I endeavored to increase my staff to the normal allowance which had been set by Admiral Spruance - to four officers, including myself. It was agreed with the Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of Naval Personnel that my staff would be myself and one active duty aviator from the College, who was at present serving with me - Commander Paul E. Hartmann - and that I would have two additional officers - one to be a line officer and one to be an aviator. I recommended that, in view of the pressure of events throughout the world, it might be wise to have retired officers to fill these latter billets. This also met with the approval of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of Naval Personnel, and my section was set up accordingly.

I have succeeded in obtaining a retired line Captain. This is Captain Joseph J. Rochefort, now on duty in the Pacific, who has been ordered here and should report any day. I have not succeeded in obtaining the aviator. The officers recommended to me have not been suitable in their training, in general, for my purposes, and if suitable to me were not suitable to the President of the War College - Admiral Conolly - who is, naturally, insistent that the staff of the War College shall number only officers of great competence.

0983

I communicated with several officers who are retired Rear Admirals (by medal award), and met with complete zero from them. The word I got was that they would like the job very much, but they thought they should be called back as Rear Admirals and should have flight pay. After discussing this matter with Admiral McCormick and Admiral Frank Watkins in Personnel, and after trying numerous sources, including the Alumni Association, I found that the chance of obtaining the officer I wanted, with the qualifications wanted; and one who would work, was very low indeed. Last month, therefore, I went to Vice Admiral DuBose and to other senior officers in Personnel. I was advised to see Admiral McCormick, which I did, and I explained that I would like to obtain an active duty Captain or Commander, both aviators (Heavier-than-Air), in lieu of the retired officers. Admiral McCormick was very much in agreement, and recommended that I see Admiral Cassady, which I did. Admiral Cassady was very friendly, and explained that, although they were shorthanded in Captains they were even more so in Commanders, but that one officer didn't make much difference, and for me to recommend and he would let me know if I could have the officer asked for.

To date, in accordance with that recommendation, I have recommended Captain David C. Richardson, and Captain Matter. Both of these officers have been refused on the ground that Richardson was about to go to sea, and Matter was in a position from which he could not presently be removed. Then, when I discovered the assignments they had, I was gratified, because that is what the War College wants to happen to their competent graduates - that is, tip-top assignments, and in the case of the younger officers, tip-top assignments in the planning field.

I plan presently to recommend some other Captain or Commander to Admiral Cassady, and hope that sooner or later I will find a suitable one.

We are working here on the Battle for Leyte Gulf. There are a vast number of planes connected with it. The problem will take sometime, and the aviator above requested is necessary to increase the tempo of the work.

I hope this makes the picture clear to you. Perhaps I should have seen you when I was down there to explain my problem, but I was told to see Admiral Cassady and Admiral Cassady I saw.

0984

Can you suggest anyone who has had War College or equivalent training, combat command, or good planning responsibilities in combat areas who might be interested, either active or retired? The officer chosen, if retired, must be junior to me on the retired list.

With warmest personal regards, and with promises to see you when I next get to Washington, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral J. F. Bolger, USN,  
Room 4E408, Pentagon Building,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0985

3 July 1951

Dear Captain Gano:

I had hoped, with our last conference, that my troubles concerning you and your office would be over, but now I'm informed by my chief yeoman, Charles R. Carlisle, 268 59 70, YNC USN, whom you so kindly sent here, that he is due for sea duty. In fact, he states that he is, theoretically, twenty-five months overdue.

I don't know how sea duty for men of different qualifications is handled, but evidently there is a way of handling them. It is my understanding that Carlisle's availability for sea duty will be forwarded today. Naturally, I do not care to lose him, as he has been very helpful here, and is thoroughly familiar with our problems. However, I realize that it is not improbable that you may feel that twenty-five months is too much, and that he should be sent to sea. Should this be done, I hope that you will search again through your files, and will (a) find me another chief yeoman of the extreme stenographic capabilities that are possessed by Carlisle, and (b) not detach Carlisle until the arrival of the new chief yeoman.

In discussing chief yeomen, I don't think it is necessary for me to explain to you how vital it is to have a chief yeoman here who is competent in shorthand, and preferably with the stenograph machine, and who is highly intelligent.

Carlisle has asked me, if he is to go to sea, to ask you if you won't assign him to a destroyer. He seems to have a particular delight in the prospects of destroyer duty, and I hope that you will be able to fulfill this ambition.

With warmest personal regards, and with regret that I have had to take up this matter with you, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Captain R. A. Gano, USN,  
Room 2809A, Bureau of Naval Personnel,  
Navy Department,  
Arlington, Virginia.

0986

11 July 1951

Dear Carl:

As you know we have a Japanese interpreter, Mr. Clarke H. Kawakami, employed under ONI funds, who is translating Japanese documents for the War College study of the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

Commander Hartmann from this office went down to Washington yesterday on a flight, and in discussing the affairs which seem to be going pretty well, Mr. Kawakami informed him that his contract would be up presently.

I don't know when it will be up, but I believe in a little more than a month. It is my understanding that Mr. Kawakami is on a straight contract of five thousand dollars. He did not desire to be given a civil service classification on the ground that the classification would necessarily have to be very high to correspond with what he had under General MacArthur. He therefore desired a straight contract.

I am now requesting that when the matter arises, the Office of Naval Intelligence be prepared to issue him a new straight contract, with increased emolument. Mr. Kawakami has not asked for this at all, but he's extremely intelligent, from all sources is an outstanding Japanese translator, and is working hard and conscientiously for this office. I would like to see it raised to six thousand dollars.

I am on the way to California for a short holiday, so I won't be able to see about this until I return in early August. However, Captain Joseph Rochefort, who has been serving in Intelligence in the Pacific, is now here for duty, and will appear in the next little while in Washington. I will ask him to go in and see you. As he is entirely new on this work I hope you won't be too tough on him, but will give him anything he asks for, as you have always done for our studies here.

For your information, the study is progressing well, but necessarily slowly. Those who have read the work to date are very friendly about it, so I think we are maintaining the high level of the past,

Give my very warmest regards to Felix and to your respective wives! With warmest personal regards, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

RADM Carl F. Espe, USN,  
Room 5C572, Pentagon Building, R. W. BATES.  
Navy Dept. Washington 25, D.C.

0987

12 July 1951

Dear Forest:

I have reviewed thoroughly the question of the prospective duration of the active duty of Commodore R.W. Bates.

At the direction of the Chief of Naval Operations and under the supervision of the President of the Naval War College, he has been engaged for several years, before and since his retirement and after the conclusion of World War II, in prosecuting research into and the analysis of certain of the important naval battles of that war fought by naval forces of the United States. These battle studies have resulted in "Strategic and Tactical Analyses" in the form of illustrated monographs of the following battles;

Coral Sea; Midway; and Savo Island.

Sound Motion Picture Presentations of Coral Sea and Midway have been made of these battle studies, and it is understood that one of Savo Island is about to be started. These have been monitored throughout their production by Commodore Bates. He and his section have been working for one year on the analysis of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. The work on this analysis is estimated to be one quarter completed. It is further estimated that two more years with the present personnel would be required to complete it in form ready for publication.

These "Strategic and Tactical Analyses" of our World War II naval battles have been thoroughly prepared after painstaking research, are well presented and have been well received by the naval service. I consider them to be a credit to the Naval War College and to the Naval Service. It is important that this work, if it is to continue, be prosecuted while records still exist and participants are still alive. The motion picture presentations are unique and well executed. They serve a useful purpose in arousing interest in critical analysis, instead of the usual casual narrative of events or tendency to over-emphasis of the spectacular features of battles.

In the past much effort and money have been expended in producing both operational and administrative histories by civilian historians with varying success. When successful these attempts have been most

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valuable, but they do not take the place of the collection of factual data, the presentation of events that have been properly evaluated, and critical and responsible analysis. To find officers to accomplish this sort of work is difficult. In addition to availability there must be a combination of the inquiring mind, a background of professional competence and active war experience, ability to express themselves in good English, and, most of all, an industry and dedication to the work that will see it through to completion.

By the results already achieved, Commodore Bates has demonstrated that he has the qualifications described. I do not know of anyone else, now or prospectively available, who I think could do this job anywhere near as well. If you value the work being done as highly as I do, I hope that you can find a way to continue Commodore Bates on active duty for two years more. This would be in the interest of getting the work done in shortest time, at least expense and with the best resultant quality.

*R.L.*

R.L. CONOLLY

Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, USN  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Navy Department  
Washington 25, D.C.

0989

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JUL 12 1951

Dear John

I was quite interested in receiving your letter of 7 July 1951 wherein you stated that Admiral R. M. Bellairs, the head of the Historical Section in the Admiralty, desired a copy of the War College Analysis of the Battle of Savo Island.

I regret to say that I cannot send a copy of this work to Admiral Bellairs as the policies of the Navy Department (CNO let-ent to Pres. HMC ltr File WCS/A10-1, Serial 3726 of 18 June 1947 - Op-34P-lr(SC)A10-1 Serial 0721P34 of 25 July 1947) provides for limited distribution to appropriate U.S. Naval commands only, for the education of naval officers. I am, therefore, not authorized to send them abroad, or even to send copies of this Analysis to our sister services, the Army and the Air Force.

I have no objection to a copy of the Battle of Savo Island being forwarded to Admiral Bellairs, if such action meets with the approval of the Chief of Naval Operations. If you desire to press this matter further, I suggest that you take up the matter officially. Should the Chief of Naval Operations recommend approval, it is solely necessary for him to instruct the War College to comply.

Sincerely  
Dick

R. L. CONOLLY  
Vice Admiral, U. S. N.  
President, Naval War College.

Rear Admiral John B. Heffernan, USN  
Division of Naval Records and History (Op-23),  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0990

1 August 1951

Dear Palmer:

One of your chief yeomen (BURTON, Morris W., YNCA(T)), is about to be or has been ordered to the War College for duty in my section. I have not seen him as I was away in California, but he did check in here to talk to the Staff. No one seems to know very much about him, although the Bureau of Naval Personnel says that he will have three years to do.

The Bureau seems interested "in the years to do" whereas, I, although interested in "time to do," am more interested in special qualifications. The chief yeoman in the Special Projects Section of the Naval War College does not only handle normal naval routine work, which is very limited, but he handles, in particular, many matters connected with action reports, war diaries, and matters of that nature. He should be able to take dictation quite rapidly because I understand that I operate, on occasions, at a reasonably fast level.

I hope that you will advise me as to whether BURTON has the above qualifications. If he doesn't I want to find someone who does - if he does, I am quite content. It took Captain Gano of the Bureau of Naval Personnel and myself a long time to obtain Chief Yeoman Carlisle, who is now leaving. Captain Gano thoroughly knew our problem, but unfortunately Captain Gano has been relieved by Captain Henderson. I do not think that Captain Henderson fully appreciates what we are attempting to accomplish in my office. However, he may and I don't want to take any stand on this until I hear from you.

I am delighted to know that you are the Commanding Officer of the VULCAN, and as you worked under me in the Philippines you probably have a pretty good idea of what I seek in a chief yeoman.

With warmest personal regards, and with a request that I obtain a reasonably prompt reply, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Captain R. E. Palmer, USN,  
Commanding Officer, U.S.S. VULCAN,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
New York, New York.

0991

3 August 1951

Dear Manning:

When I last saw you in Washington you informed me with considerable confidence that the Battle of Savo Island would be filmed commencing this year. You indicated at that time that there was probably but one vote against it, and that was over in the Bureau of Aeronautics.

I've heard nothing since from you and have not been in Washington to see you as I have been in California, so I don't know what the decision was or what, if anything, I can do about it. Will you advise me when you have the information as to what the decision by the Photographic Board was in this case, and when the contracts are to be let? A representative from my office, Captain Joseph Rochefort, will call you on Monday or Tuesday.

The film showing of the Battle of Midway was done on July 18th at the Naval Photographic Laboratory in Washington. I was invited down as a reviewer, but as I was in California I could not go. Unfortunately, Commander Hartmann, who had worked on it with me, could well have gone, but for some reason the War College chose to keep him uninformed so that no one from here saw the picture. However, as I have heard nothing from the Naval Photographic Laboratory I presume that the showing was as effective there as it was in the Pentagon. I thought the sound effects were excellent.

I was extremely distressed about George Towner, and I plan to write him a letter about it now that I have returned to duty. George is a very capable fellow, and, so far as I know, has done very well indeed in every job he has been in. Perhaps next year he will have better fortune than he has had this year.

With warmest personal regards, and many appreciations for the numerous kindnesses you have given me and this office, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Cdr. A.R. Manning, USN,  
Ass't Head, Standards & Curriculum Branch,  
(Training Division), Bureau of Naval Personnel,  
Navy Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

0992

6 August 1951

Dear Joe:

This is just a reminder as to certain of the points which I hope you will look into while you are down there:

(1) Naturally, the first consideration is the question as to Mr. Kawakami's continuance on duty as a translator. I personally consider him excellent and am anxious to retain him.

If you'll remember, I wrote to Rear Admiral Espe and suggested a \$6000 salary. I have received no reply as yet. In looking over the financial chart which you had on your desk, I note that \$6000 is in the medium strata of a GS-11. Mr. Kawakami says that he was in GS-13. I do not doubt this. However, it must be remembered that when civilian personnel are sent to assignments in the Far East the ratings which they normally obtain are usually ratings higher than they would have had here because of the hardships encountered in the Asiatic areas. I don't care particularly how you settle this thing with Mr. Kawakami, but I do hope that it is adequately settled.

(2) Don't forget to call on Admiral Heffernan. Tell him how pleased we are with our association, and of our appreciation of the courtesy extended by him to our office through permitting us to operate our translators in his office.

In this connection, for your information, there had been a plan afoot to move the translators to Annapolis. I wrote to Admiral Hartman about this and I think that my letter, as much as anything, stopped this movement. My principal point was that the Archives are in Washington and not in Annapolis. I should like to write Heffernan a letter, particularly in view of the new Chief of Naval Operations, in order to give his section a boost for their assistance to us. If you'll ask him what he would like us to say in this letter - what would be most effective - I should be interested in discovering his views.

(3) It would be well to make contact with Admiral Felix Johnson, who is Chief of Naval Intelligence; with Admiral Espe, his Assistant Chief, and with Captain Rodgers who is in that office. Don't forget to convey my very best to all of them.

0993

In the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, our principal assistant is Captain Renken, who is looking out for our interests when he can. However, Captain Renken is very busy working on British-American Doctrine, and for this reason has been unable to give us the attention which I think he would like to give us.

Anyway, in the case of Kawakami, Renken, Rodgers, Espe and Johnson all have an interest. Finally, it may be necessary to go to Admiral Hartman. Should this be so I think I'd better handle it.

(4) In Captain Renken's office is Commander Gibson. I should appreciate your commenting to him on the status of our Savo Island movie. Also, I should like you to ask him what the general reaction at the Naval Photographic Laboratory was to the Battle of Midway. Frankly, I consider this movie better than the Coral Sea movie, primarily because it followed that movie, and we were able to profit from the lessons of the Coral Sea filming.

Both Operations and Personnel, through Commander Gibson and Commander Manning, have agreed to put up the money for the Savo Island filming, and I am very anxious to get started on it. Action is the watch word!

(5) Don't forget to at least speak to Commander Manning on the telephone about Savo Island. I wrote him about it so he should be primed - let us hope favorably.

I hope that you will have time enough there - I have no objection to your staying there as long as you feel that it is necessary - to look over the papers that Mr. Kawakami has translated, and to see what is delaying their typing and delivery up here. I should like you to look over the basic Japanese documents to get a line on the material available. You might also discuss with Mr. Kawakami, who has been on duty in Tokyo, the manner best suited to obtaining information on the Japanese Army land-based air, which was based in the Islands of the NANSEI SHOTO, FORMOSA, and the PHILIPPINES, and which was employed against the American forces. Naturally, we are interested also in knowing the means of coordination between the Japanese Army Air Force and Japanese Naval Aviation.

I am hurrying this up to you to get it in your hands immediately.

Sincerely,

R. W. BATES.

Captain Joseph J. Rochefort, USN,  
c/o Mr. Clarke H. Kawakami,  
Room 2517, Navy Building,

Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C.

0994

3 August 1951

Dear McCorkle:

I was interested in receiving your letter "A voice from the deep!" dated 27 July 1951, and I am hastening to reply to it.

Very frankly, we here at the War College feel that there should be a course in International Law, of more or less limited scope, for the midshipmen, and therefore we are interested in your activities in that regard.

For some reason, never entirely fully explained to me, there are a large number of officers in the Navy, and a reasonable percentage of those taking the Strategy and Tactics course at the War College, who view the International Law course with jaundiced eyes. These officers rarely appreciate the fact that practically everything going on today between nations, and even between the United States and the Communist World, is, in a large part, based on International Law. Here and there, there are disagreements, but that does not invalidate the fact that the Rules of the Road and many other laws are still thoroughly effective. The various comments concerning the handling of prisoners in the Korean affair are along this very line.

Sometime ago, the Naval Institute, through its Managing Editor, Commander Roy de S. Horn, wrote me about having a new book written on International Law for the use of the naval service. I referred the matter to the President of the War College, who wrote a reply on the subject to Commander Horn. If you will wander over to the Office of the U. S. Naval Institute, which I believe is in the Museum - although I do not as yet think that the Naval Institute is a Museum piece - you can certainly see this letter. In conference with Commander Horn you may be able to more fully organize your thoughts along sensible lines, and will thereby be able to make a suitable representation to the Superintendent of the Naval Academy or to the Academic Council.

I am sending to you, as an enclosure, the Strategy and Tactics study of International Law which was held last year here at the War College. From this I think you will be able to obtain the answers to your first two questions, and Admiral Conolly's letter, which is in the hands of Commander Horn, should answer your third question.

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We have a correspondence course here on International Law. If you will write for this course we feel confident that the installments therein will contain the essentials required for the education of the midshipmen, and should be helpful to you in outlining the course. In addition, the Head of our Correspondence Courses has on hand printed copies of outstanding student's solutions of these International Law courses which solution might be helpful to you as a gouge. The correspondence course students report having studied anywhere from 200 to 600 hours on these solutions. Naturally, the midshipmen would not be expected to study for that many hours. You would therefore have to cut down on many of the requirements of our correspondence courses as well as to cut down the answers as given in the gouges.

The President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral R. L. Conolly, has a deep interest in International Law, and discovered in Europe during his years as CinC there the importance of this subject. It might be well, therefore, if you would write an official letter to the President of the War College requesting that a copy of the correspondence course in International Law, and the outstanding solutions above referred to, be forwarded to you.

You will discover from Commander Horn that the Naval War College is thoroughly interested in obtaining a new International Law book. If the Naval Academy desires one also, it is not unlikely that the combination of pressures from both the Naval Academy and the War College might expedite its production.

The Naval War College is quite proud of its Blue Book on International Law Decisions which comes out yearly. You will find that series in the Library of the Department of Seamanship and Navigation.

I hope that the above covers what you desire. If I can do anything further for you, you need but ask.

Finally, I want to thank you very much for your comments on the Battle of Savo Island. I have received many other similar comments from various sources, and have also received very favorable comments on the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway as well as on the movies thereof. I am now engaged in a study of the Battle for Leyte Gulf which will take some time, and will probably require two volumes.

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With best regards to yourself and with congratulations on your efforts to restore the International Law Course at the Naval Academy, I am, as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

Captain F. D. McCorkle, USN  
U. S. Naval Academy,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

Encl. (1)

0997